

What is claimed is:

1. A lens comprising:

a first lens surface;

a second lens surface, at least one of said first and second lens surfaces is a convex surface; and

a flange that is formed around the lens to be projected in a radial direction perpendicular to an optical axis and to be continued from said convex surface,

wherein said flange is provided with a groove formed on the side of said convex surface that extends from the outer edge of said convex surface toward the outer edge of said flange.

2. The lens according to claim 1, wherein said flange includes an outer ring area and an inner ring area that are different in thickness in the optical axis direction, and wherein said groove is formed so as to cut a part of said outer and inner ring areas.

3. The lens according to claim 2, wherein the thickness of said outer ring area in the optical axis direction is larger than that of said inner ring area.

4. The lens according to claim 3, wherein the depth of said groove with reference to said inner ring area is about twice

the differential step between said outer and inner ring areas.

5. The lens according to claim 2, wherein the width of said outer ring area in the radial direction is larger than that of said inner ring area.

6. The lens according to claim 5, wherein the width of said outer ring area in the radial direction is more than twice and less than three times that of said inner ring area.

7. The lens according to claim 1, wherein the width of said groove in the tangential direction is larger than the width of said flange in the radial direction.

8. The lens according to claim 7, wherein the width of said groove in the tangential direction is smaller than twice the width of said flange in the radial direction.